

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 03241 191456Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 SAM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6741

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA: VOTING IN PLENARY ON KOREAN QUESTION
NOVEMBER 18

REF: STATE 272583

BEGIN SUMMARY: STRONG USG DISMAY AND DISPLEASURE RE
YEMENI VOTE ON KOREAN QUESTION CONVEYED TO FOREIGN
MINISTER AL-ASNAJ ON NOV 19. AL-ASNAJ APOLOGIZED
AND PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS REACTION TO PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI
IMMEDIATELY. I INTEND FOLLOW-UP WITH PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI
DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY OVER NEXT FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, I IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED
FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH AL-ASNAJ TO REGISTER IN
STRONGEST TERMS POSSIBLE MY DISMAY AND DISPLEASURE OVER
YEMENI VOTE IN PLENARY RE KOREAN QUESTION. I STRESSED
THAT THIS VOTE AFTER SERIES OF HIGHEST-LEVEL YARG
ASSURANCES WAS CERTAIN TO SHAKE SERIOUSLY USG CONFIDENCE
IN YARG'S CREDIBILITY. I NOTED THIS VOTE WAS
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PAGE 02 SANA 03241 191456Z

PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL AND DAMAGING AT A TIME WHEN

YARG WAS SEEKING USG ASSISTANCE VIS-A-VIS ITS RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA. I REQUESTED HIM TO CONVEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE MY WORDS TO PRESIDENT HAMDI.

2. ASNAJ REPLIED WITH EVIDENT EMOTION EXPRESSING HIS APOLOGIES FOR THIS "UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT". HE STATED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY DRAFTED AND SENT ON NOVEMBER 11 CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS OVER THE PRESIDENT'S NAME TO AMBASSADOR MAKKI ORDERING HIM TO ABSTAIN DURING THE VOTING BY ABSENTING HIMSELF FROM THE PLENARY. ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT IT IS NOW UP TO PRESIDENT HAMDI TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE AGAINST MAKKI BECAUSE AFTER ALL IT WAS HE AND NOT THE FONMIN WHO HAD APPOINTED MAKKI IN THE FIRST PLACE.

3. ASNAJ PROMISED TO INFORM PRESIDENT HAMDI IMMEDIATELY OF MAKKI'S ACTION AND OF THE POTENTIAL HARM THIS ACTION MIGHT CAUSE TO US/YEMENI RELATIONS.

4. ABOUT AN HOUR LATER ASNAJ TELEPHONED AGAIN TO READ TO ME THE TEXT OF THE NOVEMBER 11 INSTRUCTION WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. HE ALSO APOLOGIZED AGAIN FOR AMBASSADOR MAKKI'S ACTION AND SAID THAT IT IS OBVIOUS TO HIM THAT MAKKI IS WORKING WITH OTHER HOSTILE ELEMENTS IN YEMEN TO UNDERMINE THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE DESCRIBED MAKKI AS AN OPPORTUNIST WHO WHILE A NOTORIOUS CAPITALIST IS TRYING TO DEPICT HIMSELF AS A PROGRESSIVE IN ORDER TO FURTHER HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS. ASNAJ CONCLUDED THAT IN THE MEANTIME HE IS DRAFTING AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO THE YEMENI UN MISSION OVER THE SIGNATURE OF THE PRESIDENT ASKING FOR AN EXPLANATION.

5. A SHORT TIME AFTER THIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR CAME IN FOR A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON DURING WHICH HE INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD JUST SEEN ASNAJ WHO HAD CONVEYED TO HIM THE EVENTS OF THAT MORNING CONCERNING THE KOREAN VOTE. THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ASNAJ HAD DESCRIBED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANA 03241 191456Z

ME AS BEING VERY ANGRY OVER THE TELEPHONE AND JUSTIFIABLY SO. THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ASNAJ SAID "HOW CAN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR NOW BELIEVE ANYTHING WE TELL HIM IF WE CAN'T KEEP OUR WORD?" THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED ASMAJ AS BEING VISIBLY UPSET AND EMBARRASSED BY MAKKI'S INSUBORDINATION.

6. COMMENT: I ALSO INTEND TO CONVEY OUR DISPLEASURE
TO THE PRESIDENT THROUGH HIS CLOSE CONFIDENTE MINISTER
OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID. IN ADDITION THERE IS
A GOOD CHANCE I MAY SEE THE PRESIDENT ON NOVEMBER 23
WHEN HE WILL BE RECEIVING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN
TAIZ. IF THE OPORTUNITY ARISES I WILL CONVEYUSG
REACTION AT THAT TIME.
SCOTES

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